

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 3**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2005-138**  
**DATE: December 1, 2005    Time: 5:00 p.m.**

**TO:** Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Severe Winter Storm** – A winter storm with snow, freezing rain and high winds moved through portions of North Dakota on November 27-30, 2005, disrupting electrical power and bringing transportation to a stand-still.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** In addition to previous reports, two electrical linemen were taken to area hospitals where they were treated and released following a vehicular accident with their bucket truck and an ambulance. The bucket truck was overturned on an icy road when it was stuck by an ambulance going out on a call. One lineman has returned to work while the other remains on sick leave.
3. **DAMAGES:** The National Weather Service (NWS) office in Grand Forks reports no hazardous weather in the immediate forecast.

**Rural Electric Cooperatives (REC)**

Although the RECs continue to restore power and assess damages, the extent of all damages is still unknown. REC officials have provided the following updates:

**Cass County Electric** – Eighty customers remain without power. Cass County Electric (CCE) reports intentions to have everyone back online by end of December 1. Areas still without power include the rural areas around Galchutt, Colfax, Argusville, and Horace. Power was restored to approximately 250 customers yesterday. CCE indicated there are still concerns about maintaining power for these customers since a large amount of ice is still on the power lines. Any wind could impact the lines and cause a loss of electricity. CCE indicated, beginning December 2, clean-up work on the power lines will begin. Rural roads continue to be a huge challenge with work crews getting stuck and needing assistance from farmers to free lodged trucks.

Although the company hopes to have power restored to all customers by the end of December 1, large commercial accounts will have limited power and will not be

able to conduct normal operations. CCE anticipates that those accounts will have full operational capacity restored by December 5.

Financial estimates are unavailable at this time and are not expected to be calculated by CCE for at least one week.

**Dakota Valley Electric** – One substation remains out of service impacting the Tyler area near Fairmount. That area is not expected to regain power until December 2 or 3. The rural area surrounding the cities of Milnor, Mooreton, Hankinson, Wahpeton, Fairmount, and Wyndmere are expected to be back online by December 3 or 4.

Dakota Valley Electric (DVE) gave cost estimates for repair of downed power lines, however DVE is unable to determine complete extent of damage until ice is removed from the lines. Continued cold weather is preventing the ice from melting off the lines. DVE damage estimates reported include:

LOCATION	DOWNED POLES
Ransom County	20 poles down
Sargent County	20 poles down
Richland County	475 poles down
<b>Estimated Total</b>	<b>515 poles down</b>

**Northern Plains Electric** - Damage was not substantial in their service area. Financial damage estimates are unavailable at this time.

**Ransom County**

All power has been restored.

**Sargent County**

Electricity, phone service, and water outages continue to plague the area. Snapping and arching continues as ice breaks and falls off the power and telephone lines.

4. **RESOURCES:**

**LOCAL:** No change from previous reports.

**STATE:** In addition to previous reports, the N.D. Air National Guard is providing assistance to the city of Hankinson.

**FEDERAL:** No change from previous reports.

5. **VOLUNTEER ACTION:** As of 10:00 a.m. on December 1, the day shelters in the cities of Milnor and Gwinner, in Sargent County, have closed. The Community Center in the city of Fairmount continues to serve as a shelter. Residents are

volunteering generators and homes to those that don't have electricity and neighbors are helping neighbors.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS:

**Cass County**

All power has been restored. No new requests for assistance have been reported. The Emergency Manager has initiated damage assessments.

**Ransom County**

All power remains up. No new requests for assistance have been reported.

**Richland County**

The city of Mantador had its power restored November 30; in addition, the city of Great Bend had its power restored November 29. The city of Galchutt is expected to have electrical power restored by the afternoon of December 1. Officials indicate one electrical substation remains down near the city of Tyler causing continued blackouts for the cities of Tyler and Fairmount until approximately December 4.

Local officials continue to make regular contact with citizens assessing their needs as many citizens maintain a neighbor-helping-neighbor support.

Public Service Announcements continue to be broadcasted regarding public safety information.

**Sargent County**

KQLX radio station, in Lisbon, continues to provide timely updates to the public regarding the electrical outages as well as promote public safety information by providing a toll free state phone number (800-472-2121) and local telephone emergency information numbers. Calls received at the radio station, from people needing assistance, are forwarded to the appropriate county's Emergency Manager.

Electrical service was re-established to approximately 300 customers by the evening of November 30 with a small number of customers remaining without service. The Emergency Management office is maintaining contact with these citizens and assisting with any needs. A concern remains for rural ranchers and water supplies for their livestock. Weather conditions have been cooperative allowing repairs to be expedited and also keeping residential internal temperatures at approximately 50 degrees (Fahrenheit).

Dakota Valley continues to caution citizens that may come in contact with down or sagging lines to remain clear of the area.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: The North Dakota National Guard (NDNG) delivered a total of 26 generators with sixteen going to the city of Fairmount, including one-15KW to power the city, two-10KW, ten-5KW and three-3KW to provide

residential service. Four soldiers from the NDNG 142<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Battalion are providing generator support throughout the weekend.

The city of Hankinson received one-100KW to power the city lift station from the 119<sup>th</sup> N.D. Air National Guard (NDANG). Seven other generators were sent in support of needs for Hankinson to include one-60KW, and six-3KW. Three soldiers from the NDNG 142<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Battalion are providing generator support throughout the weekend.

Two-5KW generators have been staged in Wahpeton.

An additional six generators have been delivered to the city of Lidgerwood to be used on a rotational basis with various rural residences.

The N.D. Department of Transportation (NDDOT) is assisting with sanding and snow removal for the various counties and cities impacted by the severe snow storm.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No additional outside help has been requested.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Homeland Security's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/des>.

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Susan Reinertson, Director  
N.D. Division of Homeland Security